



The Friday Update

Bringing you a summary of weekly news from City Hall

August 20, 1999

CITY OF COOS BAY

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LIBRARY GRAND OPENING HELD – The grand opening for the newly expanded and improved library was held on Friday morning at 10 a.m. Mayor Verger welcomed the assembly and comments were heard from Library Board Chair Curt Benward, Library Director Carol Ventgen, and Oregon State Librarian Jim Schepke. The ceremony was attended by members of the Coos Bay City Council, Representative Ken Messerle, County Commissions Bev Owen and Pete DeMain, Library Board members, and many citizens. The project was funded by urban renewal funds, grants, and donations, as well as many, many hours of volunteer work. Coos Bay's first library was built in 1910 with an Andrew Carnegie grant to the then City of Marshfield. Our community has a strong history of supporting the public library and commitment to education and enjoyment of reading. The doors are now officially open! Stop by and check out your beautiful new library facility.

TOURISM COMMITTEE CONSIDERS BAY AREA MURALS PROJECT – Yesterday morning the Chamber's Tourism Committee discussed the notion of putting together a community wide murals project as successfully promoted by Karl Schutz, the "father" of the Chemainus, B.C., murals project – which reformed the community from high unemployment into prosperity by applying the concept of "art as economic development." Mr. Schutz will be conducting a three-day workshop in Reedsport for that community this October, and Reedsport is very interested in moving forward with a "Schutz-type-plan" afterwards. Following a suggestion by Chamber executive director Kathi Joy, Mr. Schutz will be invited to visit the Bay Area (again) this fall -- when nearby for the Reedsport workshop -- to allow meetings with local city councilors and other community leaders.

You can learn more about Schutz and "How to create a multi-million dollar tourist industry through economic arts and tourism development!" by visiting <http://www.kschutz.com/>. You can take a virtual Chemainus Mural Tour by visiting <http://www.northcowichan.bc.ca/murals/home.shtml>.

CITY EMPLOYEES CELEBRATE MILESTONES – Join us in celebrating the employment milestones for three of the City's finest. For Rex Bales in the Community Services Dept., it's been ten years. For Mike Hurley in the Fire Dept., it's been five years. But what about Valerie Fisher in the Library? For her, it's a five year anniversary and the dedication of a new library addition all in the same week! Congratulations to all three, and hooray for them!

LABOR COMMISSIONER JACK ROBERTS ADDRESSES THE CHAMBER – Councilors Joe Benetti and Judy Weeks were on hand Wednesday morning to hear Oregon Labor Commissioner Jack Roberts address the Chamber of Commerce about our state's economic condition. City Manager Bill Grile and Community Services Director Bill Finney also attended. Among other things, Commissioner Roberts spoke about the importance of investing in the community – specifically mentioning the natural gas pipeline project and urban renewal – in order to encourage and prepare for growth. It's "investing in your future," he said.

PEG-TV UPDATE -- The City of North Bend had planned to hold a work-session about PEG-TV on August 9th but later rescheduled the discussion to August 23rd. We'll keep you posted as soon as we learn anything from North Bend.

BANNERS ACROSS HWY 101 NORTHBOUND (BAYSHORE) – As requested by the City Council, Community Services moved quickly (kudos to Steve Doty) to install poles to allow the City to hang banners

across Bayshore near the New Carissa exhibit and Chamber of Commerce. The project will cost approximately \$3300 and will be funded from the Room Tax Special Projects line item.

NEW CARISSA UPDATE -- Thanks to Bill Milwee and the owners of the New Carissa for loaning the City a binnacle (holds the compass with a light for night viewing) that is now on display in the New Carissa exhibit next to the Tourist Information Center. Stop down and see it! The salvers are still hoping to refloat the stern by October 1st, with a plan in place to haul it 40 miles out to sea and sink it in 6,000 feet of cold water.

HELP LINE READIES FOR A MOVE – Help Line is readying for a fall relocation from the Ed Lund Building in Empire to a new office in the Eastside Fire Station. This arrangement is better for Help Line, according to Board member Patricia Borchert, and allows the City to either sell or rent the Ed Lund Building. Help Line's relocation should be complete by October 1st, but the City has told the organization to not hurry if that date is a problem.

FIRE DEPARTMENT MEMBERS ATTEND CLASSES – Members of the Fire Department's water rescue team attended classes this week to train in swift water rescue techniques. The class consisted of one day of classroom study and two days of practicing skills in the water. With the emphasis on the safety of the rescuer, attendees practiced state-of-the-art techniques involving flowing water, flooding, and situations with people and/or vehicles in the water. This specialized training will allow the team to provide better service to the community.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT MINGUS PARK THIS WEEKEND? – In case you find yourself asking, "What's happening at Mingus Park this weekend?" we can tell you. A family event called "Saturday in the Park" is being put on as a special event by an inter-denominational group called "Pray the Bay." It will take place at the softball field from Noon to 6:00 p.m. and features free food, pop, ice cream, children's activities (puppet shows, face painting), "human bowling," Velcro Olympics and gladiator jousting. And all this to music from several area musicians.

BLACKBERRY ARTS FESTIVAL – Mark your calendar for a Bay Area tradition – the 17th annual Blackberry Arts Festival will be held in downtown Coos Bay on Saturday, August 28th from 9:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. Enjoy arts, crafts, jewelry, photography, paintings, woodworking, entertainment, blackberry treats, food, and much more. The event is sponsored by the Coos Bay Downtown Association and organized by the Bay Area Jaycees. The North Bend Air Fair will be held on Sunday at the North Bend Airport, adding to a full weekend of summer fun. Hope to see you there!

UMPOUA RIVER FESTIVAL – TSALILA, pronounced sa-lee-la, (the Coos Tribal name for Umpqua River) the Umpqua River Festival will be held in Reedsport at the Umpqua Discovery Center on September 11th at 12th. Experience the water, fish, land and people of the Northwest. Enjoy the Native American village, alder salmon bake, hands-on watershed education, fish painting, river box, life on the stream, salmon maze, edu-tainment, Native American tribal drumming and dancing, flintknapping, basket weaving, and moccasin demonstrations. For more information contact the Reedsport/Winchester Bay Chamber of Commerce at 271-3495.

BLOSSOM CREEK CLEANING – The Shuttles Creek Inmates along with the Coos Bay Park Division have working to clean out Blossom Creek of beaver dams and other woody debris that has accumulated over the years. The woody debris has caused the water to backup during heavy rains and high tides onto surrounding properties. The inmates and Park crew have cleaned about 950 feet of creek.

BOY'S & GIRL'S CLUB SPECIAL EVENT – The Boy's & Girl's Club of Southwestern Oregon will hold

a 3-mile run on Sunday, September 19, 1999 for all boys and girls in grades 1 thru 8. The run will begin and end on South 2nd Street between Anderson Avenue and Curtis Avenue in downtown Coos Bay. The event is scheduled to begin at 1:30 p.m. For more information, contact LeRoy Walker at 267-3635.

OCDBG - BOYS & CLUB CLUB PROJECT PHASE 4 – An update – The City of Coos Bay and the Boys and Girls Club received two bids for Phase 4 of the project. The bids were as follows:

	<u>BASE BID</u>	<u>ALT 1</u>	<u>ALT 2</u>	<u>ALT 3</u>
Lee Construction	1,558,000	44,500	43,000	18,000
Don Thompson	1,462,000	49,000	14,000	19,000
Available funding	\$1,150,000			

The available funding for this project is limited to \$1,150,000. The project has bid approximately \$312,000 higher than the available funds. At this time the architect, McSwain and Woods, and the low bidder are in negotiations. Once completed, the results will be forwarded to the city attorney for review for compliance with state purchasing rules and on to the State Economic Development Department for approval. The State Economic Development Department will review to ensure that the scope of work has not significantly changed and therefore not jeopardize the \$600,000 in grant funds. The Boys and Girls Club and the City are anxiously awaiting the outcome of the negotiations between the architect and the low bidder. We will keep you informed as these talks continue.

LABOR TRENDS – Work Now and in the Future conference takes place November 7-10, 1999 at the Oregon Convention Center in Portland, Oregon. The Conference series is held each November and attracts a national audience of 2,000-3,000 people. The 16th annual Work Now and in the Future Conference will feature more than 100 sessions highlighting innovative practices, policies, and partnerships in the increasingly interconnected fields of education reform and workforce development. This conference is the premier event for educators, policy makers, community members, and business representatives--all key stakeholders in meeting rapidly changing education and workforce needs.

The South Coast has at least two sessions featured in this year's conference! Relevancy in Education: An Award-Winning Staff Development Model will include a panel of South Coast business partners (Laurie Mazzotta, Dan Smith, William Lansing, Romelle Renner), and Analyzing Occupations; Finding Comparable Work (Romelle Renner) will bring the investigator out in participants as they dig for clues to occupational opportunities. (Information excerpted from State of Oregon Employment Department)

URBAN RENEWAL AGENCY VOTES TO PROCEED WITH EVEN MORE COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS – The City's Urban Renewal Agency met Thursday evening at City Hall and made a number of important long-range decisions. The Agency approved proposals to begin work on five new projects, two in the Empire district and three in the Downtown district. The Agency approved a short-term loan of funds between the Empire and Downtown districts in order for work on the new projects to begin immediately. The Agency discussed at length the sale of Urban Renewal Bonds. Sale of the bonds will NOT increase property taxes; the bonds will be financed through revenue already available to the Agency. Sale of the bonds will make it possible to proceed quickly with projects that the Agency has prioritized – this will result in immediate investment in the local economy.

Projects approved by the Urban Renewal Agency on Thursday are:

- Empire Gateway
- Empire Streetscape – Phase II
- Downtown Parking Lot Lighting

Broadway Streetscape
Fifth Street Plaza – Phase I

Further details on these approved projects are available through the City's Community Services Department at 269-8918.